



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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August 14, 2002

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

West Nile Virus Confirmed in Sedgwick County

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) -The Kansas Department of Health and Environment announced today that the first case of the West Nile Virus has been confirmed in Sedgwick County. The confirmation comes after tests done on three birds in Sedgwick, McPherson and Republic Counties, which also have confirmed cases. The birds tested were two blue jays and a crow.

The Sedgwick County Health Department wants to remind everyone that the risk of contracting West Nile Virus is minimal and about 80 percent of those who actually contract the virus never even know it. Attached is a fact sheet on the West Nile Virus and the risks and precautions people should take. Though the risk of the virus is minimal, Sedgwick County has a plan in place and will take necessary steps in keeping the virus in check.

"We want to make sure people know that there is no cause to panic," said Commission Chairman Ben Sciortino. "We have known about this virus for quite some time and we understand that precautions should be taken. Sedgwick County is fully prepared to handle this virus and keep the citizens of Sedgwick County safe."

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